

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### Waukegan Park District Commemorates Arbor Day

**Waukegan, IL (April 26, 2018)** . . . The Waukegan Park District will observe Arbor Day on Friday, April 27th at 10:30am by planting three trees, a Sycamore, an Elm and a Linden, at King Park, 301 South Avenue, Waukegan. Fifth grade students from nearby Carman-Buckner Elementary School will help plant the trees. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day. Landscaping, especially with trees, can add to the market value of a home. We invite you to join the park district in planting a tree this Arbor Day. A Norway Spruce seedling will be given away to those in attendance.

The Norway Spruce is a European tree that is a familiar sight in the United States. The pyramidal tree grows to a height of 40-60 feet with a spread of 23-30 feet. The tree likes full sun and does well in this zone. Lilac Cottage in Bowen Park has beautiful Norway Spruce trees in its front yard.

Almost 100 years before the idea of Earth Day, J. Sterling Morton suggested a campaign for tree planting. By 1894, his movement for planting trees had spread to every state in the nation. Today, Arbor Day is celebrated in all 50 states and in many other countries. Actual dates for the event differ for each area depending on planting times. Illinois celebrates Arbor Day the last Friday of April each year, the same date as National Arbor Day.

“Each generation takes the earth as trustees. We ought to bequeath to posterity as many forests and orchards as we have exhausted and consumed.” *J. Sterling Morton.*

### **About the Waukegan Park District**

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 50 sites and more than 736 acres of land, including the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include the Field House Sports, Fitness and Aquatics Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, disc golf course, dog exercise area and agility course, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball, tennis and pickleball. A full range of programs and services are offered year round for all ages, from infants to seniors as well as special needs populations. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 62 full-time and over 230 part-time, year round, seasonal, and temporary employees. The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The district maintains national accreditation from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and maintains a Level A Loss Control Program. The district was a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013, and awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013.

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